

Applications for a Harris County Tow Truck Permit

will be available on-line in August

Applications will be accepted, October 1st through October 15th

See below information to help you prepare.

Application Information:

The application must have a company owner (the person to whom the permit will be issued).

The certificate of insurance / ACORD document must identify all tow trucks and drivers and must be an original document. E-mails and faxes sent directly from the insurance agent are acceptable.

The certificate holder shall be listed as:

Harris County Sheriff's Office
Vehicular Crimes Division
1200 Baker Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Application Documents:

- Completed application
- Original insurance certificate / ACORD
- DBA / LLC / INC receipt of certificate and partnership agreement
- TDLR tow truck registration certificate
- TDLR cab card
- Vehicle registration document (for renewals, write truck HCW# at top right corner)
- Vehicle storage facility letters (Drop Letter)
- Owners' and drivers' identification (Tx DL / HCW ID / TDLR ID / LTC)
- Tow truck company business card
- Tow ticket (TDLR complaint information required)

Harris County Permit Fees

Permits expire every year on January 31. Permits for the next year may be purchased as early as November if available.

- November Inspections \$728.00
- December Inspections \$680.00

Other Fees: Tow truck operator identification card \$15.00

Equipment

- Documents (registration/insurance/cab card MVI)
- Safety vest (ANSI / ISEA standard)
- Fire extinguisher
- Broom (18-inch head, 36-inch handle)
- Debris container
- Spotlight / flashlight
- 3 reflectors / flares / cones
- Crowbar (36-inch)

- Absorbent (5 gallons)
- Shovel (flathead, 36-inch)
- Rope / wire
- Emergency lights
- Tow lights
- Safety chains (J hooks)
- Dollies
- Window tint (above 25% VLT)
- Tires (good tread)
- Weight plate, sticker, or documentation
- 8 ½-inch bolts (4 front / 4 rear) (aftermarket-built trucks)

Tow Truck Signage

- Signage must be in contrasting colors and must be clearly visible at fifty (50) feet during normal daylight hours (Tow Truck Ordinance Section II.1.1.c).
- Ghost-style signage will not be approved.
- No additional stickers or logos that are not related to the operations of towing a vehicle. e.g., “In memory of,” bumper stickers, etc. (Tow Truck Ordinance Section II.1.2.c).
- The emergency light bar must be mounted as high and as wide as possible. No additional lighting is allowed to include “wig-wag” headlights or alternately flashing “strobe kits.”

Truck markings: (both sides of tow truck)

- Company / cab card registered name and phone number on door(s) (3-inch tall minimum)
- Business city and state on doors (2-inch tall minimum)
- Vehicle storage facility address on bed (2-inch tall minimum)
- HCW# on fender (2-inch tall minimum)
- TDLR number
- Vehicle registered owner’s name, city, and state (2-inch tall minimum, if different from cab card)
- Heavy-Duty trucks must display USDOT number (2-inch tall minimum)